(b) After successful launch from Kourou, French Guyana, the satellite's orbit was successfully raised from the INSAT Master Control Facility, Hassan, INSAT-3C is now located at 74 deg.E and all transponders have been checked out. The performance of the spacecraft is satisfactory. The satellite has started sending signals and some of the television and telecom carriers have also been loaded since February 20, 2002. INSAT-3C contains 24 C-band, 6 Ext-C, 2 S-band (Broadcast Satellite Service) and one S-band (Mobile Satellite Service) transponders. INSAT-3C will augment the INSAT system capacity for telecommunications, broadcasting and developmental communication activities.

Works on INSAT-4 series of Satellite

† 1315. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works relating to INSAT-3 series of satellite have been completed;

(b) if so, whether INSAT-4 series of satellites are planned to be worked out;

(c) if so, the objectives of above series; and

(d) by when works relating to this series would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir. In the INSAT-3 series, two more satellites are to be launched by 2002-2003.

(b) Planning for INSAT-4 series of satellites has already been taken up.

(c) The main objective of the INSAT-4 series is to increase the transponder capacity of the INSAT system in various frequency bands and provide improved services to the nation.

(d) The INSAT-4 series is being planned for completion during 11th Five Year Plan period;

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.